



BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.



Annual Report  
OF  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR 1909

BEWDLEY :

SHEPHERD & PERKINS, PRINTERS, LOAD STREET.

# TO THE Town Council of Bewdley.

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BEWDLEY,

FEBRUARY 3rd, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

Death Rate.

During the year 1909 there have been 37 deaths notified in the Borough, giving a rate of 12·87 per 1,000 of the population.

This is considerably lower than the average death rate, which is 15·24 for the previous ten years.

Of the deaths registered there were

Under 1 year	6
Between 1 year and 5 years	6
,, 5 years ,, 15 years	none
,, 15 ,, ,, 25 ,,	2
,, 25 ,, ,, 65 ,,	11
Over 65 ,,	12
	—
	37
	—

Infant  
Mortality.

There were 6 deaths of children under 1 year of age, giving a rate of 81 per 1,000 children born. This is also below the average, which is 112 for the previous ten years.

Birth Rate.

There were 74 Births registered during the year, giving a rate of 25·81 per 1,000 of the population, the average for the previous ten years being 25·41.

Infectious  
Diseases.

Influenza was prevalent during the early part of the year, but no death was attributed to it.

There was a considerable outbreak of Measles during the Summer, on account of which all the Elementary Schools were closed from June 21st to July 26th. Three deaths were attributed to this disease.

There were three cases of Erysipelas notified, and one of Enteric Fever. The latter had been away fruit picking, and developed the disease shortly after his return home, so that there is no doubt that he had become infected while he was away.

There were 16 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year, three of which had to be removed to the Kidderminster Isolation Hospital; the rest were satisfactorily isolated at home.

The cases were mostly of a mild type, and only one, in a very delicate child, proved fatal.

I am convinced that, with reasonable care, most of these mild cases of Scarlet Fever can be safely isolated at their own homes, and the saving of expense is enormous by so doing. In this small district the cost of each case sent to the Kidderminster Isolation Hospital adds about a half-penny to the rates, which is a very serious consideration, and I find that the spread of infection can be as well checked in most cases by careful isolation at home.

There were five cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified by the Parish Medical Officer during the year, but no general system of notification has been adopted, so that there is no guide to the amount of the disease existing.

In all known cases instructions are given for the prevention of infection, and disinfectants provided free if desired. When a death is notified the house is disinfected under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

**Water.**

Eighteen houses have been supplied with the Town Water during the year, bringing the total number to 625.

**House Accommodation.**

I made representations to the Council during the year that two houses in The Lakes, and one on Severn Side North, were unfit for habitation.

The necessary alterations have been made in the two former, but in the latter case nothing has so far been done.

One case of over-crowding has been dealt with.

**New Houses.**

None have been built.

**Drainage.**

The drainage of Bark Hill is in an unsatisfactory condition, and the question is constantly arising before your Sanitary Committee. There is no system of sewerage in the greater part of that portion of the Borough, the house drains leading either into dumb-wells, which are in many cases unsatisfactory, or into ditches, or into fields or orchards.

Fortunately, there are few water closets, but the ordinary house slops and soap-suds cause a great nuisance at times, especially in hot weather.

The question is a large one, but I would commend it to the serious consideration of the Council.

**Excrement Disposal and Scavenging.**

This is carried out by the Borough Authorities in a satisfactory manner, though some of the receptacles in which the house refuse is put out in the streets for removal are not all they might be.

A complaint was made to the Local Government Board and the County Council as to the condition of the Town Tip, which has been in use for about two years on the bank of the River Severn, and I was requested to report to the Council on the matter.

I presented a Report dated October 25th, stating that I had never detected any nuisance arising from it, and that I had never received any complaint about it.

I have heard nothing further about the matter.

Great care is exercised that no offensive matter should be deposited on the Tip; all combustible matter is burnt as it is deposited, and the surface is carefully covered with clean ashes or spent tan so that it may not look unsightly from the towing path.

House to House Inspection.	Systematically carried out.
Burial Ground.	In a satisfactory condition.
Canal Boats.	Regularly inspected and any defect dealt with.
Bake-Houses.	In a satisfactory condition.
Slaughter Houses.	Two of them were found in need of repairs to the walls and floor: in one case the necessary alterations have been carried out, in the other the work is in hand and the Slaughterhouse has not been used meanwhile.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.	These are regularly inspected. Two cowsheds were found in an unsatisfactory condition, and the necessary structural alterations have been carried out.
Offensive Trades.	None.
Sale of Food & Drugs Act.	No case has arisen.
Food unfit for Human Consumption.	No case has arisen.
River Pollution.	Remains as before.
Industries.	Agriculture, Timber Trade, Horn Manufacture, Brassfounding, Tanning, Brewing and Basket Making, and a large number of people work in the factories of Kidderminster and Stourport.

A new Brass Foundry has been started in Load Street.

Vans & Tents	Regularly inspected at Fairs and other times.
Factories & Workshops.	In a satisfactory condition.
Elementary Schools.	The children in these are inspected by the County Medical Inspectors.

The Lax Lane Schools were closed for a week from March 22nd owing to the drains being blocked, and some consequent alterations being carried out.

All the Elementary Schools were closed from June 21st to July 26th, owing to an outbreak of Measles.

A special Report was sent on each occasion to the Local Government Board and the County Council.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

U. W. N. MILES,

Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institutions. †	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	*Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	* Rate.		Number.	*Rate.
1899	2876	76	26.42	12	157	41	14.25	Nil.	41	14.25
1900	2876	71	24.68	7	98	51	17.73	Nil.	51	17.73
1901	2866	87	30.35	8	91	39	13.60	Nil.	39	13.60
1902	2866	76	26.51	7	92	52	18.14	Nil.	52	18.14
1903	2866	86	30.	4	46	29	10.11	9	38	13.25
1904	2866	68	23.72	20	294	51	17.78	9	60	20.93
1905	2866	61	21.28	8	131	44	15.35	6	50	17.09
1906	2866	73	25.47	8	109	45	15.70	6	51	17.79
1907	2866	59	20.58	4	67	55	19.36	5	60	20.93
1908	2866	72	25.12	3	41	30	10.46	5	35	12.21
Averages for years 1899-1908	2868	72	25.41	8	112	43	15.24	6	47	16.59
1909	2866	74	25.81	6	81	37	12.87	2	39	13.60

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages, 2,866. Number of inhabited houses, 672. Average number of persons per house, 4, at Census of 1901. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2070.

† Kidderminster Infirmary and Kidderminster Workhouse.

### TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during  
the Year 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	At Ages.-- Years.		
		1 to 5	5 to 15	25 to 65
Erysipelas ...	3			3
Scarlet Fever	16	7	8	1
Enteric Fever	1			1
Totals ...	20	7	8	5

Isolation Hospital at Kidderminster.



## TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards
Measles ... ..	3	1	2			
Scarlet Fever ...	1		1			
Enteritis ... ..	1		1			
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4			2	2	
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	1		1			
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	4				3	1
Bronchitis ... ..	6	1				5
Pneumonia ... ..	1		1			
Heart Diseases ...	2				1	1
All other causes ...	16	4	1		5	6
All causes ... ..	39	6	7	2	11	13

## TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	2—3 Weeks	7—8 Months.	9—10 Months.	10—11 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes.	2	1	1	1	1	6
Measles ...				1		1
Congenital Defects ...	2	1				3
Bronchitis ...				1		1
Other causes ...			1			1

Births in the Year: Legitimate, 74.

Deaths in the Year: Legitimate, 6.

Population (estimated to middle of 1909) 2866.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 37.



